

**CONNECTING MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHER
CERTIFICATION
AND
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

EDUCATOR GUIDE

MIDDLE LEVEL

Rationale: The nature of the middle level child and teacher is unique and powerful. Therefore, because of this uniqueness, specialized preparation leading to certification is required.

CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE BY 2006

- Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Blended Certification (Birth-Grade 3).
- Standard Elementary Certificate (K-Grade 8) with required Middle Level endorsement (grades 5-8) if teaching middle level students.
- Middle Level Certification (grades 5-8).
- Standard Secondary Certificate (Grade 6–12) with required Middle Level endorsement (grades 5-8) if teaching middle level students.
- K-Grade 12 Exceptional Child Certification (K-12).
- Occupational Specialist Certification (7-12).

Recommendation includes:

- Preparation of Middle Level teachers to include meeting requirements of Idaho Middle Level teaching standards developed in 2002.
- Middle Level Endorsement and Certification, Grades 5-8, is recommended to be in place by 2006.
- All teachers with a current Idaho Standard Elementary or Standard Secondary Certification will be granted a middle level endorsement (5-8).
- District flexibility will be addressed through Interim Certificates and Letters of Authorization.
- Establish an appropriate Praxis II Middle Level content area pass score.

Additional recommendations related to Middle Level:

- Districts/higher education need to offer professional development for in-service middle level teachers.
- Higher education institution(s) need to develop a Master's program in Middle Level education.